



Bring together all heart failure stakeholders to improve the prediction, prevention, diagnosis and management of heart failure.

A Few words from your central team

Dear Members,

We hope you are doing well and that you are able to get some rest during the holiday season.

2023 is almost over, and we're proud of all the work the CHF Alliance teams have accomplished over the past year. In this newsletter, we'll take a look back at the year's highlights and achievements.

To end the year on a high note, we are pleased to announce the launch of the Trainee Awards and Early Career Investigator Grants competitions. The terms of reference and application forms for both competitions are available on our website in the Grants section, and you can access them directly by clicking on the links that you will find below in the newsletter.

Finally, please note that the Quick BEAT will be on hiatus for the next two weeks.

We can't wait to connect with you again in 2024, but in the meantime, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best wishes,

Maryse, Leslie, Jean, and Marc



From left to right: Leslie Hausmann, Maryse Desjardins, Jean L. Roubeau and Marc Bains

CHF Alliance Competitions

Graphic with CHF logo and text: 'THE CHF ALLIANCE IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE LAUNCH OF OUR 2024 TRAINEE AWARDS AND EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATOR GRANTS COMPETITIONS' and 'Funding available from CHF: 2 Awards of \$25,000 each for Master/PHD students, 2 Awards of \$25,000 each for Postdoc students and MD enrolled in a research fellowship, 4 Grants of \$25,000 each for early career investigators'.

Trainee Awards Competition

Available funding: Two \$25,000 awards for Master's or PhD students. There is one additional award available for a Master's/PHD student (\$20,000) and one for a Postdoctoral student (\$20,000). These students are still required to provide proof of matching funding to be eligible for this award.

Main eligibility criteria: Applicants must be a student at the graduate, post-doctoral level in a Canadian University, or an MD enrolled in a research fellowship, and be registered as a CHF Alliance trainee at the time of submission.

NB: Trainees who identified as Indigenous or Black African Descentians will be given priority. Funding is for one year of salary support, starting September 2024.

Terms of Reference Application form Application deadline is at 6 pm Pacific Time on March 28, 2024.

Early Career Investigator Grants Competition

Available funding: The CHF Alliance offers 4 grants of \$25,000 each to research funding. Bayer Inc. sponsor one additional grant for research funding.

Main eligibility criteria: Principal applicants must be: An early career investigator at a Canadian Academic institution within his/her first 5 years of his/her first academic faculty appointment. Be a member of the CHF Alliance.

The project must be: Related to one of the CHF Alliance teams/themes/projects. Unfunded at the time of application.

NB: Projects involving national collaboration, Indigenous focus, and/or the engagement of patient partners will be given priority.

Funding will start in September 2024 for research funding for a duration of 18 months. Terms of Reference Application form.

Application deadline is at 6 pm Pacific Time on April 2, 2024.

2023 Highlights and Achievements

2023 is almost over and we are proud of the work we have accomplished so far. Here are some of the highlights and achievements of 2023.

Training Team

This year, the Training Team launched the first edition of the CHF Alliance Trainee Awards and Early Career Investigator Grants competitions. Thanks to our partners, we were able to fund 7 trainees and 4 early career investigators for a total of \$250,000. We will have the opportunity to learn more about their work at the upcoming in-person meeting in Montreal on May 23, 2024.

The team has also begun working with the CANTRAIN team to develop their training platform and modules. The Training Team is working to identify the training needs of trainees and early career investigators in research in general. We will continue to work closely with the CANTRAIN team in 2024.

Patient Engagement Team

Led by Dr. Doreen Banner-Lukaris and Mr. Marc Bains, this team has done a tremendous job in 2023 engaging patient, hosting webinar, and developing tools for patient partners and researchers (video series, Health4Me, patient partner roles form, etc.). Recently, they hosted their first Patient Partner Masterclass at Vascular 2023, welcoming more than 20 patient partners from across Canada. They also funded the first seed grant for patient-led research. They will continue their hard work this year, and we will continue our efforts to ensure that patient partners are involved in all CHF Alliance projects.

Knowledge Mobilization

This year we launched the CHF Alliance website, which we continuously update with new information on projects, news and events. Including the CHF Alliance webinars, and available funding. We connect with you every Friday with the Quick BEAT and the BEAT, sharing latest news from the network and opportunities. We also worked with the Canadian Heart Failure Society and partners to organize the 8th edition of Canada's National Heart Failure Awareness Week (May 1-5, 2023), and we have already begun discussions for the sixth edition (May 2024).

In May 2023, we hosted our first CHF Alliance Conference Meeting in Toronto and it was a real pleasure to meet some of you during the event. We can't wait to see you at the next face-to-face meeting in Montreal. Finally, we were at the Vascular 2023 where we had a booth to meet with researchers, physicians, patients, and companies to spread the words about the CHF Alliance team and start new collaborations.

National Teams and Collaborative Projects

Our four national teams (Pediatric, Indigenous, Translational and Access) and collaborative projects (RVIN2 and HOPE-IF) continued to make progress with their respective projects, some much advance than the others, but all on the right track. Importantly, the GRAVE platform (Dr. Jason Wehner, University of Alberta), which is part of the RVIN2 project, received funding from the ACT Consortium, which will help move the project forward. We have also made significant progress in the CAHME and CLSA cohorts, particularly in supporting the completion of baseline data for First Nations participants in the CAHME study (Dr. Anand, McMaster University, and colleagues) and in the addition of AI-guided echocardiography in CLSA participants (Dr. Riana, McMaster University, and Dr. Tsang, UBC).

The Indigenous team has also been very active in assisting researchers to involve Indigenous people in their projects, and, more importantly, to do so in a way that respects Indigenous ways and traditions. The Indigenous Research Council, recently named Mitewakan, a Cree word meaning the Spirit of the Heartbeat, is made up of Knowledge Holders, Elders and people with lived experience who provide guidance to the network on the contextualization and adaptation needed for culturally safe and responsive heart failure care and research. Finally, the team was involved in the development and review of the INMI Communities Experiencing Heart Function (HF) Inequalities, and we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Robert McLaughlin, researcher at the University of Toronto, who received this award for her work with the Algonquians of Barriere Lake community. Congratulations Dr. McLaughlin!



Do not hesitate to contact us if you want to share something with the CHF Alliance community.

Footer with social media icons (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn) and website URL www.chfalliance.ca

